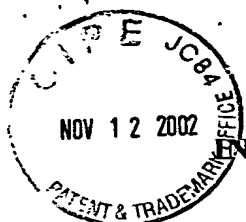


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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas NOSKER et al.

Group Art Unit 3617

Serial No.: 09/985,937

Examiner: M. T. Le

Filed: November 6, 2001

For: ENGINEERED RAILROAD TIES

REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of June 12, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, and 22.

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GROUP 3600

Please amend the claims as follows:

A 23

--1. (Amended) A railroad tie comprising:

a railroad tie having at least four longitudinal sides, two end faces and a longitudinal axis, wherein at least one longitudinal side has an arrangement of concave shapes in the surface thereof, said shapes having a depth of at least 1/8 of an inch and having sidewalls which are at an angle of less than 90°, wherein said tie is made from polymeric material, and

said concave shapes are in the form of truncated cones in which the sides of the truncated cone shapes are at an angle of 30-60 degrees with respect to said at least one longitudinal side, or said concave shapes are truncated pyramidal shapes in which the sides of the truncated pyramidal shapes are at an angle of 30-60 degrees with respect to said at least one longitudinal side.